## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER PC 7 G01N21/03 G01N G01N21/15 ÎPC 7 G01N1/28 G01N1/38 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC **B. FIELDS SEARCHED** Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) IPC 7 GO1N Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used) EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Relevant to claim No. Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages 1,2,8,10 Α US 5 185 531 A (WYNN WILLIAM H) 9 February 1993 (1993-02-09) column 2, line 25 -column 3, line 21 column 4, line 12 - line 27; figures 1-3,7,8WO 00/02031 A (SAMAAN NASHED ; LAMINA INC 1,2,10 Α (US); EL AMIN MARIANNA (US); GUIRGUIS RA) 13 January 2000 (2000-01-13) page 5, line 7 - line 21 page 21, line 23 -page 22, line 25; figure 1-3,8-10US 5 824 270 A (RAO TENNETI V) Α 20 October 1998 (1998-10-20) column 1, line 35 -column 2, line 61; claim 1 X Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. Patent family members are listed in annex. Special categories of cited documents: "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance Invention "E" earlier document but published on or after the International "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone filing date °L° document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such docu-"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or ments, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art. document published prior to the International filing date but later than the priority date claimed "&" document member of the same patent family Date of mailing of the international search report Date of the actual completion of the international search 8 July 2004 16/07/2004 Authorized officer Name and mailing address of the ISA European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL – 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31–70) 340–2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31–70) 340–3016 Stuebner, B

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